

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method comprising:
2 serially transmitting and receiving signals complying with the standard Universal Serial
3 Bus (USB) specification over a communication path; and
4 serially transmitting and receiving signals at a frequency higher than the signals
5 complying with the standard USB specification over the communication path.

- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of serially transmitting and receiving signals
2 at a frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB specification comprises:
3 serially transmitting and receiving signals at a rate of at least 125 megabits per second.

- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein serially transmitting and receiving signals complying
2 with the standard USB specification comprises:
3 serially transmitting and receiving signals at a rate of about 1.5 megabits per second or
4 about 12 megabits per second.

- 1 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 serially transmitting and receiving signals complying with the standard USB specification
3 over at least one pin.

- 1 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2 configuring a transceiver to serially transmit and receive the higher frequency signals.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2 serially transmitting and receiving signals complying with the standard USB specification
3 over a cable.

1 7. A system comprising:

2 a transceiver and a communication path;

3 the transceiver capable of serially transmitting and receiving signals complying with the
4 standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification over the communication path;

5 the transceiver further being capable of serially transmitting and receiving signals at a
6 frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB specification over the
7 communication path.

1 8. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

2 the transceiver further being capable of configuring itself to transmit and receive the
3 higher frequency signals.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the communication path comprises at least one cable or
2 pin.

1 10. A system comprising:

2 a downstream transceiver; an upstream transceiver; and a cable coupling the upstream
3 and downstream transceivers;
4 the transceivers capable of transmitting and receiving signals complying with the
5 standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification over the cable;
6 at least one of the transceivers further being capable of transmitting and receiving signals
7 at a frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB specification over the
8 cable;
9 at least one of the transceivers capable of configuring itself to transmit and receive the
10 higher frequency signals.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the upstream transceiver is coupled to transmit and
2 receive signals for a host computer.

1 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the downstream transceiver is coupled to transmit and
2 receive signals for a peripheral.

1 13. The system of claim 10, wherein the higher frequency signals have a rate of at least 125
2 megabits per second.

1 14. The system of claim 10, wherein the signals complying with the standard USB
2 specification have a rate of 1.5 megabits per second or 12 megabits per second.

1 15. A system comprising:

2 at least two transceivers; and a communication path coupling the transceivers;
3 at least one of the transceivers capable of transmitting and receiving signals complying
4 with the standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification over the communication path;
5 at least one of the transceivers capable of transmitting and receiving signals at a
6 frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB specification over the
7 communication path;
8 at least one of the transceivers capable of configuring itself to transmit and receive the
9 higher frequency signals.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the higher frequency signals have a rate of at least 125
2 megabits per second.

1 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the signals complying with the standard USB
2 specification have a rate of 1.5 megabits per second or 12 megabits per second.

1 18. An apparatus comprising:
2 circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals complying with the standard Universal
3 Serial Bus (USB) specification over a communication path; and
4 circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals at a frequency higher than the signals
5 complying with the standard USB specification over the communication path.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising circuitry to configure the circuitry to
2 serially transmit and receive the higher frequency signals.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the circuitry to serially transmit and receive the
2 higher frequency signals shares at least some circuitry with the circuitry to transmit and receive
3 signals complying with the standard USB specification.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the communication path comprises at least one cable
2 or pin.

1 22. An integrated circuit comprising:
2 circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals complying with the standard Universal
3 Serial Bus (USB) specification over a communication path;
4 circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals at a frequency higher than the signals
5 complying with the standard USB specification over the communication path; and
6 circuitry to configure the circuitry to serially transmit and receive the higher frequency
7 signals.

1 23. The integrated circuit of claim 22, wherein the circuitry to serially transmit and receive
2 signals complying with the standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification comprises voltage
3 driven circuitry.

1 24. The integrated circuit of claim 22, wherein the circuitry to serially transmit and receive
2 signals at a frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB comprises
3 current driven circuitry.

1 25. The integrated circuit of claim 22, wherein the circuitry to configure the circuitry to
2 serially transmit and receive the higher frequency signals comprises a switch and a resistor.

1 26. The integrated circuit of claim 22, wherein the circuitry to configure the circuitry to
2 serially transmit and receive the higher frequency signals comprises a current source.

1 27. A computer peripheral comprising:
2 circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals complying with the standard Universal
3 Serial Bus (USB) specification over a communication path;
4 current driven circuitry to serially transmit and receive signals at a frequency higher than
5 the signals complying with the standard USB specification over the communication path; and
6 circuitry to configure the current driven circuitry to serially transmit and receive the
7 higher frequency signals.

1 28. The computer peripheral of claim 27, wherein the circuitry to serially transmit and
2 receive signals complying with the standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification comprises
3 voltage driven circuitry.

1 29. The computer peripheral of claim 27, wherein the circuitry to configure comprises a
2 switch and a resistor.

1 30. The computer peripheral of claim 27, wherein the circuitry to configure comprises a
2 current source.

1 31. The computer peripheral of claim 27, further comprising at least one voltage regulator
2 electrically coupled with the current driven circuitry.

1 32. The computer peripheral of claim 27, further comprising serial termination coupled with
2 the communication path.

1 33. An apparatus comprising:
2 means for serially transmitting and receiving signals complying with the standard
3 Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification over a communication path; and
4 means for serially transmitting and receiving signals at a frequency higher than the
5 signals complying with the standard USB specification over the communication path.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the higher frequency signals have a rate of about 125
2 megabits per second.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the signals complying with the standard USB
2 specification have a rate of 1.5 megabits per second or 12 megabits per second.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising means for configuring the apparatus to
2 transmit and receive the higher frequency signals.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the communication path comprises at least one of a
2 cable and a pin.

1 38. A method comprising:
2 coupling at least two transceivers with a communication path;
3 wherein the transceivers are capable of transmitting and receiving signals complying with
4 the standard Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification over the communication path;
5 wherein at least one of the transceivers is capable of transmitting and receiving signals at
6 a frequency higher than the signals complying with the standard USB specification over the
7 communication path;
8 wherein at least one of the transceivers is capable of configuring itself to transmit and
9 receive the higher frequency signals.

1 39. The method of claim 38, wherein the higher frequency signals have a rate of at least 125
2 megabits per second.

1 40. The method of claim 38, wherein the signals complying with the standard USB
2 specification have a rate of 1.5 megabits per second or 12 megabits per second.

1 41. The method of claim 38, wherein the communication path comprises a cable.